



### Message from the Director

n January 12-13, 2004 President Bush and Secretary Powell participated in the 3rd Summit of the Americas held in Monterrey, Mexico, which brought together the region's freely elected heads of state and government to discuss the future of the Western hemisphere. The U.S. delegation worked with its counterparts to strengthen the foundations for democracy and economic growth in the hemisphere by taking action to promote democracy and good governance, to spur private sector-led growth and reduce poverty, and to improve health and education. Additional information about the important accomplishments of this summit can be found at www.state.gov.

Secretary Powell's recent address to the National Conference of State Legislatures, highlighted in this issue of IGA Quarterly News, is another example of how the Department of State is reaching out to state and local officials. In addition, you will find information about Afghanistan's road to democracy, changes to U.S. border and visa policy, and the latest annual report about international religious freedom.

Nilda R. Pedrosa, Director, Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

### The following publications are available upon request:

- IGA: Working with State and Local Governments
- Diplomatic List
- Key Officers of Foreign **Service Posts**
- U.S. Department of State: A Guide to Doing **Business**
- Country Background **Notes**
- Travel Warnings
- Tips for Travelers



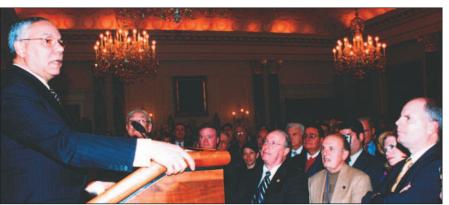
### **Secretary Powell Urges State Legislators To Continue Their International Engagement**

uring the Fall Forum of the National Conference of State Legislatures, Secretary of State Colin L. Powell welcomed more than 350 State legislators to a special reception in the State

Department's Diplomatic Reception Rooms. Assistant Secretary for Public Affairs and Department Spokesman Richard Boucher hosted the reception and underscored the Department's interest in

working with State officials through its Office of Intergovernmental Affairs.

Secretary Powell thanked the legislators especially for making youth programs a priority in their States and communities. Recognizing the crucial role that State governments play in shaping education, health, and social



Secretary of State Powell addresses U.S. State legislators visiting the Benjamin Franklin Room at the State Department.



Secretary for Public Affairs Richard Boucher introduces Secretary of State Powell and Utah House Speaker and NCSL President Martin Stephens.

programs for youth, he discussed some of the moving stories of his experience with youth in the United States and abroad that led him to found *America's Promise: The Alliance for Youth* in 1997.

Secretary Powell also commended the State officials for their commitment to international affairs. "Through exchange programs for elected officials where you bring people here to show them how it works, [and] what consensus and compromise is all about.... You are making a direct contribution to my diplomatic effort."

Secretary Powell also urged State and local elected officials to travel overseas. "I encourage you to bring back the lessons that you learned from abroad and talk to organizations and audiences all around your State. I want you to know that this Department is so proud of what you do to help us do our job."

Focusing on America's foreign policy priorities for 2004, Secretary Powell discussed U.S. goals in bringing democracy to Iraq and Afghanistan (see separate story on page 3), the efforts to jump-start the Middle East peace process as well as ongoing diplomacy aimed at resolving other conflicts around the world, such as in the Sudan and Liberia. Secretary Powell described the new

Millennium Challenge Account, which will dramatically alter both the level and quality of development assistance, channeling \$5 billion in aid each year to developing nations that are reforming

State legislators that he believes in having a strong outreach program and active partnerships with communities in the United States, in addition to those overseas communities that host U.S. diplomatic missions. He encouraged the participants to meet with diplomats when they are sent back to their hometowns to talk about how foreign policy benefits Americans. "States bordering other countries have special interests and responsibilities concerning commerce, security, health, immigration, and a host of other policy issues that we can work with you on."

The Office of Intergovernmental Affairs would like to thank the National Conference of State Legislatures as well as NCSL's President Martin Stephens and Vice President

"States bordering other countries have special interests and responsibilities concerning commerce, security, health, immigration, and a host of other policy issues that we can work with you on."

-Colin Powell, Secretary of State

their economies so they can trade in the global marketplace.

He also spoke passionately about President Bush's emergency plan for combating the global HIV/AIDS pandemic, which has created so many orphans and ravaged entire generations in many African countries. The U.S. Government initiative will commit \$15 billion over 5 years to fight this devastating disease.

Secretary Powell also reminded the

John Hurson for highlighting the importance of international relations for the States by bringing the Fall Forum to the State Department.

Secretary Powell concluded by noting that "This building really is the center of your diplomatic infrastructure, your diplomatic family, those who carry the value system that you develop in your communities, which is a part of our national value system. We carry it out to the rest of the world."

### Bringing Democracy and Stability to the New Afghanistan:

The reconstruction and reopening of the first phase of the highway from Kabul to Kandahar and the successful conclusion of the Constitutional *Loya Jirga*, or "grand council," are just two recent examples of how life in Afghanistan is improving after the end of the Taliban's repression.

At a dedication ceremony on December 16, 2003, interim President Hamid Karzai and U.S. Agency for International Development Administrator Andrew Natsios emphasized the importance of rebuilding the country's principle road sys-

tem for Afghanistan's future. More than 35% of the population lives within about 30 miles of the Kabul-Kandahar route. The 300-mile highway, financed through the U.S. and Japanese Governments, reduces travel time between the two cities to 5 hours and has already begun to contribute to Afghanistan's improved economic growth, security, and national unity.

Several weeks later, delegates convened an historic meeting in Kabul to draft a new constitution that affirms the Afghan people's path to democracy and sets the stage for national elections in the summer of 2004. Afghans seized the opportunity pro-



A layer of asphalt being compacted along the Kabul-Kandahar Road.

vided by the United States and its international partners to lay the foundation for democratic institutions and demonstrated their remarkable commitment to democracy. The discussions among the delegates addressed the full range of issues on the table, from the role of women and the power of the central government to freedom of religion. As U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad noted, "such a wide-ranging debate is unprecedented in more than 5,000 years of Afghan history."

The resulting document is a landmark on Afghanistan's path toward constitutional democracy. It sets forth a presidential system with a strong parliament and an independent judiciary. The new Afghan consti-

tution also establishes broad religious freedom and equality between men and women.

Afghanistan's success in recent months is the result of an international effort. The United Nations is playing a crucial role in building Afghan political institutions since the Bonn conference set the country on its current course. NATO's International Security Assistance Force continues to provide a stabilizing presence to allow the seeds of political progress to grow. Americans can take pride in the role they have played in leading the multilateral effort to support Afghan democratization.

### Changes On the Border

### **Destination USA**

The U.S. Department of State continues to promote its visa information campaign "Destination USA: Secure Borders. Open Doors" to explain some of the recent



changes in visa law which have required the Federal Government to modify its visa policies. Some of these modifications include personal interviews at Embassies and Consulates and in some cases additional review by officials here in Washington. The visa information campaign outlines the six steps that non-U.S. citizens take in order to obtain a U.S. visa. Copies of the free brochure and additional information about visas can be obtained by calling the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs at (202) 647-5358 or visiting www.unitedstatesvisas.gov on the internet.

### **US-VISIT**

On January 5, the Department of Homeland Security began implementing the new entry/ exit program known as US-VISIT at 115 international airports and 14 seaports in the United



States. The goal of US-VISIT is to improve the security of the United States without slowing the process for legitimate visitors. Under the enhanced procedures, most visitors traveling on a U.S. visa will have two fingerprints scanned by an inkless device and a digital photograph taken. This biometric information is used to verify that the travel documents match the visitor presenting them. Based on initial reports during the system's first month of operation, these new procedures add only seconds to the visitor's overall processing time.

Despite these required changes in entry and exit procedures, many things have not changed. The United States of America remains a nation where diversity is celebrated and people from all over the world are welcome. Today we - like most other countries - are working to keep our borders secure while we maintain the freedom to exchange ideas, keep businesses thriving, and enrich lives all over the world.

# TOF STATE TON Armitage

Deputy Secretary Armitage released the Religious Freedom report on December 18, 2003.

### **International Religious Freedom Report**

n December 18, the Department of State released the fifth annual report on religious freedom worldwide. As a provision of the First Amendment of the Constitution, freedom of religion is also a core principle of U.S. foreign policy. This country-by-country analysis establishes a baseline of fact about the status of international religious freedom using research conducted by U.S. diplomatic missions overseas. Issued in accordance with the 1998 International Religious Freedom Act, the report focuses attention on the plight of people who are persecuted simply for the peaceful practice of their religious beliefs. The analysis, which

covers the period July 1, 2002, to June 30, 2003, uses five categories of discrimination to describe

distinct forms of restrictions on religious freedom. To receive a printed copy of this report, please contact the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs at (202) 647-5358. ■

### **U.S. Elected Officials Abroad**

IGA coordinated U.S. Embassy assistance for 7 delegations of State and local officials traveling overseas.

## October China and Taiwan: Vermont Lieutenant Governor Brian Dubie led a trade mission to advance business and cultural opportunities for Vermont in Shanghai, Hong Kong, and Taipei.



Lieutenant Governor Brian Dubie

Italy: County Executives of America Board members Jack Doyle (Monroe County, NY), Terry Holzheimer (Arlington County, VA), Richard Murgatroyd (Kenton County, KY), Robert Prunetti (Mercer County, NJ), and Andrew Spano (Westchester, NY) led a trade mission to Venice and Palermo.

Germany: Ten state legislators and staff from the National Conference of State Legislatures participated in NSCL's 15th annual study tour to Germany, including the states of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania, Berlin, Saxony-Anhalt, and Saxony.

**China:** Department of State officials briefed Augusta, GA Mayor **Bob Young** 

prior to his participation in the U.S.-China Business Matchmaking conference in Shanghai and Beijing.



Mayor Bob Young

### November

**Belgium:** Washington, DC Mayor **Anthony Williams** led a 35-member delegation to Brussels, Belgium focused



Mayor Anthony Williams

on enhancing cooperation between the two national capital cities. The U.S. Embassy in Brussels assisted the delegation in arranging meetings with Belgium's Foreign Minister Louis Michel and organizing

workshops on trade and investment, inner-city development, policing, and best practices for hosting diplomatic missions.

**Spain and Morocco:** Oklahoma State Senator and immediate past president of the National Conference of State Legislatures Angela Monson led an officers delegation of 11 state legislators

and staff on a study tour to Barcelona, Sevilla, Madrid, Rabat, and Marrakech. U.S. Embassies and Consulates provided country briefings, arranged meetings with



Senator Angela Monson

local officials, and coordinated logistical assistance throughout the visit.

Ireland and Belgium: Oklahoma State Senator and immediate past president of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) Jim Dunlap led a delegation of 11 state legislators and staff from ALEC's leadership on a study tour focused on U.S.-European relations. In Dublin, the delegation met with U.S. Ambassador to Ireland James Casey Kenny, U.S. Secretary for Health and Human Services Tommy G. **Thompson**, and Irish Finance Minister Charlie McCreevy. Deputy Chief of Mission James Foster and other diplomats from the U.S. Mission to the European Union briefed the delegation in Brussels about recent developments in transatlantic relations.

### Outreach: The Department of State in Your Community

This quarter, IGA sponsored 41 intergovernmental outreach events in 25 states. The following State and local officials participated:

### **OCTOBER 2003**

- Mayor Rocky Anderson, Salt Lake City, UT
- New York State Senator Byron Brown, Buffalo, NY



- Mayor Dave Cieslewicz, Madison, WI
- Vice President for International Business Development Carmenza Gonzalez, Orlando, FL
- Mayor Mary Gross, Holstein, IA
- Mayor Ignacio Guzman, Montgomery, AL
- Mayor William J. Hargis, Woodbury, MN
- Mayor's Chief of Staff Eva Hassett, Buffalo, NY
- Mayor Ron Henderson, Norman, OK
- Mayor Economic Development Director Beth James, New Orleans, LA
- Mayor Randy Kelly, St. Paul, MN
- Assistant City Manager Scott Martin. Norman, OK



- City Manager Will Manley, Tempe, AZ
- City Alderman Marin Pratt, Milwaukee, WI

- Judge Israel Reves, Miami, FL
- Mayor Dan Walker, Torrance, CA

### **NOVEMBER 2003**

- Mayor Paul Argazzi, Berlin, CT
- New Haven Sister Cities, Inc. President Kathleen Bidney-Singewald, New Haven, CT
- Assistant Deputy Mayor Karen Blackwell, Los Angeles, CA
- Mayor **Peter Clavelle**, Burlington, VT
- Economic Development Director Susan Daywood, Birmingham, AL
- Massachusetts Public Health Commissioner Christine Ferguson, Boston, MA
- Economic Development Director Rudy Fernandez, San Diego, CA
- Town Council President Lois Geiss, Rochester, NY
- Mayor Randy Kincaid, Davidson, NC
- Mayor Linda Lawrence, Wausau, WI
- Mayor's Chief of Staff Sheila O'Grady, Chicago, IL
- Ohio Homeland Security Director John G. Overly, Columbus, OH



Connecticut State Representative Robert Peters shows Hometown Diplomat Fiona Evans around the State Capitol in Hartford.

- resentative Robert Peters, Hartford, CT
- · City Councilman Mickey Rosado, Cape Coral, FL
- Chief of Protocol Elena Salsitz, San Diego, CA
- Nevada Commission on Economic Development Executive Director Bob Shriver, Carson City, NV
- Deputy Mayor Renata Simril, Los Angeles, CA
- Chief City Administrator **Janet Stevens**, Missoula, MT

### **DECEMBER 2003**

• Mayor Marty Blum, Santa Barbara, CA



- City Councilman **Jim** Burch, Palo Alto, CA
- Mayor Al Jurczynski, Schenectady, NY
- Mayor Alex Knopp, Norwalk, CT
- Mayor Al McWilliams, Plainfield, NJ

### **Meetings and Conferences**

IGA participated and hosted exhibits at these meetings and conferences:

- Miami, FL: Intergovernmental Affairs Director Nilda Pedrosa briefed mayors at the U.S. Conference of Mayors Leadership Summit, October 9-11.
- Washington, DC: Under Secretary of State for Global Affairs Paula Dobriansky addressed the Center for Women Policy Studies' Foreign Policy Institute, October 9.
- Pittsburgh, PA: Intergovernmental Affairs Officer David Freudenwald discussed the role of the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs at the State International Development Organization's Annual Meeting, October 24.
- Pittsburgh, PA: Council of State Governments Annual State Trends and Leadership Forum, October 23-26.

- Miami, FL: Free Trade Area of the Americas Ministerial Meeting, November 16-21.
- Houston, TX: Deputy Assistant Secretary for African Affairs Pamela Bridgewater delivered a keynote address at the annual legislative conference of the National Black Caucus of State Legislators, December 1-6.
- Washington, DC: Secretary of State Colin L. Powell and Assistant Secretary Richard Boucher addressed the National Conference of State Legislatures' Fall Forum (see article, page 1) during a reception in the State Department's Benjamin Franklin Room, December 11.
- Nashville, TN: National League of Cities Congress of Cities and Exposition, December 9-13.

### **IGA** on the Horizon

Be sure to check this section each quarter for updates...

### **MARCH 2004**

National Association of Counties Legislative Conference • Washington, DC

National Association of State Treasurers Legislative Conference • Washington, DC

National League of Cities Congressional City Conference • Washington, DC

National Association of Regional Councils Washington Policy Conference • Washington, DC

### **APRIL 2004**

National Conference of State Legislatures Spring Forum • Washington, DC

Council of State Governments National Committee and Task Forces Meeting • St. Paul, MN

### **MAY 2004**

National Conference of Black Mayors 30th Anniversary Convention • Philadelphia, PA

National Association of Black County Officials Annual Meeting • Houston, TX

### About the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs

How the IGA Office can help

### Access:

- Coordinate meetings with Department experts in Washington or your community;
- Arrange special-issue briefings; and
- Create a forum in which your foreign policy views can be heard by senior Department officials.

### **Assistance:**

- Provide information on foreign policy, international trade, education, exchanges, and protocol issues;
- Engage the support of U.S. Embassies and Missions for official delegations' travel abroad; and
- Direct State and local officials to the appropriate Department office for international, travel, or foreign policy concerns.

### **Information Requests**

Contact us by phone, e-mail, or regular mail at:

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